

GERMANTOWN FRIENDS SCHOOL

**INTERNATIONAL STUDENT
HOMESTAY PROGRAM**



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GFS INTERNATIONAL STUDENT HOMESTAY PROGRAM

In order to encourage and foster connections between cultures, Germantown Friends School offers a homestay program for students from other countries who wish to attend GFS.

Our entire community—international students and their parents, all members of GFS families, and the student body at large—benefit from this program, as GFS continues to expand its global diversity and awareness.

Host families can be GFS alumni families, families with children presently at GFS, empty nesters, part of local Quaker monthly meetings, or GFS faculty/staff.

Advantages of our homestay program include:

- International students experience language and cultural immersion in a nurturing and protected setting
- Students will be placed with a family that is known by the GFS community and is committed to making them a part of their family
- GFS students get to know students from other countries, developing friendships and deepening cultural awareness
- Host parents provide their own children with a unique opportunity for cross-cultural exchange
- Host parents have the privilege of seeing themselves and their home culture through the unique lens of an international student

GFS supports host families by providing:

- A monthly stipend for room and board
- All necessary legal contracts
- Liaison for all international student and parent concerns
- Monthly host parent meetings
- Special events geared toward community building

GFS supports ISP students by providing:

- Medical insurance
- Cafeteria meal plan
- Funds for transportation
- Individualized academic support
- Opportunities to collaborate in planning events with GFS students
- Special events

Host families will support the student by providing:

- A bedroom and a desk
- Two meals per day
- A warm and welcoming environment in which to live and study

Host families are NOT responsible for:

- Medical insurance
- Books
- Incidental expenses
- Academic support

Other Ways to Get Involved:

- Host a student over school breaks or a long holiday weekend
- Invite a student for a special holiday gathering at your house
- Take a junior or a senior ISP student along for college visits
- Offer to carpool to sports or evening events
- Attend special events hosted by the International Student Program



INTERESTED IN HOSTING?

Next steps include interviews with Penka Slavova, Director of International Student Program. Penka will organize home visits, forms, and clearances.

PLEASE CONTACT:

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GFS

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